

# Dry Ice Handling/Recharge

Dry Ice Handling/Recharge Instructions Apply to  
Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine

## Thermal Shipping Container Dry Ice Recharge



- **If using an Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) freezer for storage, transfer trays to ULT freezer**
  - Remove dry ice pod from shipper
  - Take out closed-lid vial tray(s) and transfer to ULT freezer
  - Transfer must be done in less than 5 minutes to prevent premature thawing
- **If using the thermal shipping container for temporary storage, it must be re-iced within 24 hours of initial inspection and then every 5 days thereafter for up to 30 days**



- Up to 6 recharges (re-icings) are authorized
- 1st recharge within 24 hours of receipt and upon opening the thermal shipper
  - Dry ice pellets will be provided for 1st recharge in the dry ice kit
- Recharge every 5 days thereafter
  - Local dry ice suppliers can be used for re-icing the thermal shipper
- **Return the thermal shipper including the temperature data logger within 10 business days and no later than 30 business days (picked up by contracted supplier)**

## Handling



- **Employ protective measures when handling dry ice**
  - A dry ice kit with gloves, an ice scoop, face shield, and an OSHA dry ice safety card will be provided
    - Gloves allowing manual dexterity should be worn while handling frozen vials



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# Dry Ice Handling/Recharge Safety

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## Ensure proper ventilation of the dry ice storage container



The best option is a Styrofoam chest with a loose fitting lid.



Never leave dry ice in an unventilated car. If traveling with dry ice, crack a window for ventilation.



Storing dry ice in an unventilated room can cause high concentrations of carbon dioxide. If breathing becomes difficult, leave the area immediately.



Do not store dry ice in an operational freezer, the cold temperature could cause the unit to fail. However, dry ice may be used in a freezer in the event of lost power.

## Never store dry ice in an airtight container



When dry ice melts it converts directly into gas and the pressure could rupture the container and cause injury from the projectiles.

## Do not touch dry ice with bare skin



Use protective equipment, e.g. tongs, thick/insulated gloves.



Bare skin contact with dry ice can cause a burn. Prolonged contact with dry ice can cause frostbite which needs immediate medical attention.



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